THE "BOGIE" GIBSON.

Under the effect of several years of persistent vituperation by his enemies Mr. Gibson appears to have assumed in the popular imagination all the attributes of a "bogie." His name has been used by political nurses, to frighten those whom they have been trying to train up in the political way they should go, so long and so frequently that the nurslings are ready to believe every possible evil thing of him. One of the most ludicrous of recent instances of this superstition is to be found in a letter addressed by some frighted litte one of the Opposition family to the *Bulletin* and printed in Friday's issue of that paper. The child has positively seen the shadow of the great bogie on the wall. And forthwith he proceeds to tell how the wicked Gibson inspired some uncomplimentary remarks about Lieutenant Greely which were lately written by some one on the staff of the *San Francisco Chronicle*, published in that paper and copied into the PACIFIC COMMERCIAL ADVERTISER. True there was an accidental omission of the name of the paper from which the extract was taken. But that fact does not detract in any way from the cleverness of imagination which the correspondent of the *Butletin* displays. He could see the spirit of Gibson in the remarks on Greely quite plainly. It is the internal evidence that convinces him that the hand of the arch-bogie is there.

There is no reasoning with such people, and we shall not attempt to reason with them. This, however, we will say in comment on the letter referred to. There is nothing to be found in Mr. Gibson's actions or utterances, either as a public man or as a journalist, to support the accusation that he has manifested "a dispositfon to cast slurs upon things American." The statement is a slander, in support of which neither fact nor word can be adduced.

The same impuation is cast upon those who are responsible for the conduct of this journal. We repudiate it indignantly, and defy anyone to produce anything from the columns of the ADVERTISER which can even be twisted into a "slur upon things American." If we had really spoken ill of Greely, which we neither did nor are disposed to do, that would not have proved any such animos any more than recent criticisms in these columns on General Gordon proved a disposition to cast slurs on things British. The imputation is a childish one.

As to the insinuation that the ADVERTISER is under the control of Mr. Gibson we are not much surprised that the correspondent of the *Bulletin* should have rested under that delusion. The editors of our contemporaries seem to think there is a political advantage to be gained by insisting that Mr. Gibson inspires our columns, and that the paper is wholly run by him. They have so persistently tried to mislead the public on this subject, that it is not surprising if some credulous people have been taken in by their mis-statements. We are glad to find that the present editor of the *Bulletin* has no mind to join in this journalistic chicanery. We have our revenge on those who indulge in it in watching and laughing at the ludicrous blunders they make now and then when trying to fasten on to Mr. Gibson all sorts of sentiments, or to invent reasons why he should have "inspired" this or that utterance.

IMMIGRATION.

"What is wanted at this juncture is not population, but cheap labor." So says one of our evening contemporaries, on the authority of a "leading planters' agent." We do not think there has been any "juncture" in the history of the country when the same opinion was not held by "leading planters' agents," and those for whom they are agents. They have had to suffer much loss, and many perplexities and anxieties, from the manner in which the endeavor to re-populate the country has been mixed up with importation of labor for plantation purposes. Now that for some time past the spontaneous immigration of Chinese laborers has been checked, and the returns from sugar-planting enterprises are very much less than they were, the planters feel these things keenly. They cannot help viewing with discontent both the cost to them of Portuguese labor, and the effect in the way of keeping up the rate of wages of the almost complete stoppage of Chinese immigration. As to the latter, they will probably not care to speak out about because of their fear that the enemies of the Reciprocity Treaty might make use of the subject against them. Public opinion in California remains as strongly anti-Chinese as ever, and it appears to be recognized here that some deference is due to that opinion irrespective altogether of mere fears for the safety of the treaty. It happens, therefore, that up to the present time very little has been openly said about this matter. One or two individuals, more outspoken than the rest, have not hesitated to express their opinion that the Chinese should be allowed to come in in much larger numbers, or just as they please, at any rate until the price of labor is reduced by their competition. If our Japanese experiment does not succeed in solving the labor question we shall have a great deal more on this subject, and a most serious social question will arise. Even the Chinese rice planters are beginning to feel the pinch, and complain that they cannot get sufficient hands to run their cultivations, and are trying to persuade their old laborers who have gone back to China to come to work for them again.

On the other hand, should the Japanese immigration scheme prove a success, and plenty of labor of a satisfactory quality be introduced under it, there will be a cry to stop spending money on the introduction of Portuguese. This will be a grave mistake, although we have to confess that it will be a very natural one, because it is quite true that to the planter, who only looks to the immediate return for his money, Portuguese labor appears to be very expensive. Nevertheless it is a fact that the only really useful work that has hitherto been done in the way of repopulating the country has been this very immigration of Portuguese. And the planter who looks forward into the future must recognize that one of the best sources of supply for labor wanted in years to come is the rising generation of Portuguese.

THE HAWAIIAN IN BUSINESS.

A correspondent of the *Bulletin*, who signs himself "Observer," says he is "surprised to hear many old residents state that the Hawaiian is incapable of understanding and carrying on business, and that, as a matter of fact, he does not engage in business." He then goes on to say that as he is but a comparative stranger here he feels that he is not qualified to judge correctly of the truthfulness of such a statement, and asks for further information on the subject.

We take pleasure in submitting to "Observer," and others interested, a few facts from which they can draw their own conclusions.

In the first place, there were in the year 1881 (at which time a careful analysis of the taxation of the Kingdom was made, and there has not been much relative change since then) 31,000 taxpayers (including females and estates) in the Kingdom, 15,769 of whom were Hawaiians, or about one-half. This half paid, in round numbers, one-third of the entire sum realized from taxes that year. Naturalized citizens (many of whom were born here) paying about one-fourth; Chinese a little less than one-fifth; Americans, one-fifth; English, one-eleventh; Germans, one-eleventh; Portuguese and other nationalities, the balance. The Hawaiian taxpayers being numerically stronger than other nationalities paid a larger proportion of "poll" taxes, but still the tax on the real estate was one-fourth, on personal property one-eighth, and on carts and horses one-eighth of their entire taxation.

Aside from the income derived by the Hawaiians from the rental of their real estate, the proportionally large sum they pay in taxes each year is earned by them in labor and "business." They are to be found working at all trades and occupations. They are doctors, lawyers, ministers and teachers. They manage their own and other people's property, take and execute contracts for buildings, cultivating lands and raising crops of sugar cane and other products. There is not a single industry or occupation of any kind on these Islands that is not engaged in by Hawaiians, with the exception, perhaps, of rice cultivation, which, we think, is all in the hands of Chinese.

It may be argued that the Hawaiian do not engage in large business enterprises. Perhaps not; but that is simply because enterprises that demand a large amount of capital require the personal supervision of those whose business abilities are a good deal a matter of inheritance, and even with them failure is about as common as success.

The habits and traditions of the Hawaiians, as well as their local influences, have never been such as to develop his business capacities, but that he is incapable of understanding and carrying on business is a statement that is as unfounded as it is absurd.

A "CALM REMONSTRANCE."

The *Bulletin* calls the resolutions of the Chamber of Commerce a "calm and serious remonstrance." We can see nothing of the form of remonstrance about them. They contain an intemperate expression of opinion on a subject which ought certainly to have been treated in a calm and serious manner. If the business men of this city fear that the interests of the kingdom and of its commerce will be injured by the substitution of another man for the late Collector-General they certainly have not taken the right course to give effect to their views. If in earnest about it they might have taken some step to try to prevent the consummation of the change. They did not do anything of the sort. Their resolutions may perhaps be called a protest, but they are a protest addressed to no one—declamation given to the winds. From the character of the last resotion we might suppose that they are addressed to Col. Allen, but the tenor of those that go before belies any such supposition If they were, what could be the use of so addressing them? If the members of the Chamber sincerely desired to persuade the King and the Ministry to restore Col. Allen to his post they would not have taken the course they have done. We are indeed informed that a copy of the resolutions was left by the Secretary of the Chamber at the Palace, but that that gentleman did not ask to see the King or even think it necessary to sign the document he delivered. This is the only evidence existing of a desire to address themselves to the King on the part of the members of the Chamber. Their resolutions instead of being addressed to him are couched in language intentionally offensive, and no man in his senses will believe that any of those who joined in passing them for one moment expected that they could persuade, conciliate or influence either the King or his Ministers. Their whole tendency is to exasperate and annoy. They impute vile motives in undisguised terms. Theirs is not the language of men who, deprecating a threatened event, had gathered together to use every honest endeavor to avert it, and who, having undertaken the task, meant to leave no stone unturned to accomplish it. No, it is the language of rabid party politics—a phrase which unhappily must in this country be translated as rabid *personal* feeling. It is language so sure to defeat its pretended object that the sincerity of those who adopt it might be open to suspicion did not all experience show that political passions blind men even to their own interests. So long as our business men allow a few head-long unballasted individuals to lead them in such ways as this, so long will they have the mortifieation of feeling that they do not exercise that influence in public affairs which they ought to be able to command. It is for their own sakes that we speak out our minds about this folly.

AT THE GILBERT ISLANDS.

All About Canoes, Paddles and Sails, and their Uses.

The Gilbert Islanders enlarge their habitable limits by being as much, and nearly as often at home on their canoes as under their hut shelters. I use the word "on" advisedly, for the natives cannot be said to be in their little narrow shells when afloat. In general shape and dimensions the canoes of the Hawaiian and Gilbert Islands are much alike, but in their construction they are very different. There are few trees besides the palms that attain to any size on those coral islands, and so the canoe-maker builds his slender, graceful craft out of small slabs, hewn with infinite labor from the trunks of the *Pisonia grandis*, which sometimes attains a width of two and even three feet in its trunk, which is always short, and generally crooked. Fifteen feet is about the ordinary length of the canoes, and the measure across the beam some twenty inches, with a depth of two feet, or thirty inches, perhaps. The keel, which is built of several pieces of hard, heavy wood, neatly "scarfed" together, rises at each end of the canoe to form a cutwater. This keel, which is about three inches wide and four deep, has a shallow groove cut on both sides at the top edges, and the flat pieces that are to form the shell of the canoe have their lower edges fitted neatly to this groove. To hold them in place and to fasten them to each other rows of holes are bored through the keel and the edges of the boards, and through these is passed a cord of cocoanut fibre, twisted hard for this purpose, of such a size as to fill the holes very completely. Before placing a piece of board in position a strip of pandanus leaf pounded until quite soft is laid in the joint to form a sort of packing or caulking, and in addition all the little holes and cracks are filled with the pith of the *Morinda Cetrifolia* packed in tightly. The boat builder has two tools to work with. One is an adze made from a plane iron bound firmly to a crooked piece of wood. The other is a bit of wire, which being made hot, is used to bore the holes needed in the work. Much care is taken that these holes coincide and that each bit of wood is exactly fitted. No two pieces of board are of the same length, so that the joints are "broken," and the strength of the canoe increased. The two sides of the canoe have not the same degree of outward curvature; one being, indeed, almost flat, as compared to the other. Board after board is fitted to its place, an immense amount of labor being expended in the task, and finally a "gunwale" is made of a small round pole of flexible wood, and lashed firmly to the top edge, the ends being brought together to form a beak or prow. The knees formed of branches, having a natural elbow or crook, are then snugly fitted to the inside of the shell—the usual order of things in boat-building being reversed, the skeleton being fitted to the body as it were. Both ends of the canoe are covered over for a short distance, the long, slender poles that fasten the "outrigger," or float of buoyant wood, being lashed across the canoe amidships. On these poles other sticks are secured so as to make a sort of open deck or platform in the centre of the canoe. There are various little pieces of wood fastened here and there. One block slightly hollowed serves as a "step" for the mast, and others at either end are arranged to hold one end of the pole, which serves as a yard, or "sprit," to the triangular sail.

The paddles used throughout the group are very long and slender, the blades (which are "dshed" a little) not exceeding six inches in width, and tapering to a point. In the hands of anyone but a Gilbert Islander they are very clumsy and ineffective; but one of those, to the manner born, will propel his canoe, steer it, and otherwise manage to govern its movements with much ease and gracefulness. Unlike the people of the Solomon or Hebrides, Samoans or New Zealanders, the Gilbert Islanders do not ornament their canoes or paddles to any extent. They are content to achieve the task of shaping the implement so that it shall be effective; but beyond this they do not go,

A mast about twelve feet long is fitted with ropes and stays, so that it can be readily set up or taken down. The sprit or yard is fastened by its middle rope so that it can be hauled up to near the top of the mast, and on this yard is bound one edge of a triangular sail made of thin mats sewn together like the cloths of a canvas sail. This triangular sail measures seventeen or eighteen feet on either edge, and when set, one end of its yard is stepped into one of the blocks of wood prepared for it. The whole rig is so arranged that the canoe does not have to "tack;" but one or the other end is the bow, as the yard is shifted. With a man seated cross-legged at either end, their bronzed bodies glancing in the sun as the play of muscle reflects the light, with the slender paddles flashing as they dip in the sparkling waves, the canoe is picturesque. When, however, Tasmania deposited himself gingerly on the light frame-work amidships of one he hired to take him ashore, he looked up at us with a sickly smile and informed us that the "confounded" craft leaked like a sieve and there was "nothing to bail with." So we concluded to use the drier, if more prosaic boat belonging to the Julia.

Months are consumed in building a canoe of ordinary size, and when, as sometimes happens, a large one is commenced, years pass before it is completed. There is one at Apamama 190 feet long and 12 feet wide and deep, which has just been finished, 30 years since its keel was commenced. Of course the workmen take their time. They get their pay in instalments of fish, cocoanuts and tobacco, and are consequently in no hurry to finish the job. As for those for whom the work is being done, they can catch fish with hand nets while waiting, and so it makes no difference to them whether they have a canoe or not. Besides, it is their nature to let the morrow (and the day too for that matter) take care of itself. If a thing is not finished to-day, it may be to-morrow; if not then, why next week will do. Time is nothing to them. One of them was hired by a trader to go up the island and cut down and bring to the village the trunk of a hard wood tree about four inches in diameter and six feet long. A few days after the bargain was made the native met the trader and told him he had cut the tree down and would soon go and bring back the stick. About two weeks after he came (for a little tobacco) and informed the trader that the stick was ready and he would bring it to him "next day." A month afterwards the trader was up near the grove where he had pointed out the tree he wanted cut, and found it growing as vigorously as ever! With a few blows of his hatchet he felled and trimmed it, and then burried it in the sand a short distance away. The next time the native came he told his employer he had been "very sick," or else he would have brought the stick on the day promised. He was then on his way to the grove (he said) and would be back by sundown. He borrowed a pipe full of tobacco and left. Not long after the trader (having brought the stick down himself meanwhile) accused the man of lying to him, and finally the native confessed that he hadn't cut the stick yet. It was not quite large enough, he thought, and so, he had concluded to let it grow some time longer. Then he would cut it. Meanwhile, to solace him while watching the stick grow he wanted "a little more tobacco.!"

London's Vastness.

London is the vastest aggregation of human beings that the world has seen. Because it is so vast it has outgrown all organization, and ceased to think of itself as a city at all. The municipal system of the Middle Ages was only once extended to include a new area, at the time when the region between Ludgate Hill and Temple Bar was brought within the walls. The last century was not fertile in creative expedients, and when people wakened up fifty years ago to see how huge London even then was compared with that square mile which we call the city, and which carries on the ancient municipal government, they shrank back from the problem of giving it a corporate existence, and remodelling the old institutions to suit these new conditions. Thus we find no collective action in London for common objects; no appliances intended to serve the whole of its inhabitants. The greatest things, like the British Museum Library and the picture galleries and art collections, have been created or gathered not by Londoners, but by the nation. Such educational agencies as exist have grown up accidentally, sporadically, unconnectedly. None of them are strong enough to grapple with the needs of all London, nor is there combined action between them. Indeed few Londoners know what London contains. The names not only of institutions, but even of large districts are strange to those who dwell in other parts.